

P24886.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Norbert RILITZ et al.

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : Concurrently Herewith

For : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STACKING AN INCOMING SHEET  
STREAM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during examination of the instant application.

Applicant submits herewith a copy of the German Search Report (in German) dated September 5, 2003 and conducted in German Application No. 103 07 785.5 of which the instant application claims priority. In particular the German Examiner cited:

(1) DE 41 39 978. This document is cited as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document which casts doubt on obviousness in combination with other documents). Figs.

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2 and 3 as well as reference numbers 2 and 1.2 are indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 2 and 3 of the German Application;

(2) DE 199 28 367. This document is cited as a "Y" category document. The document is indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1-4, 8 and 9 of the German Application;

(3) DE 200 08 591. This document is cited as a "Y" category document. Fig. 2 and reference numbers 12, 15 and 20 are indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1-4, 8 and 9 of the German Application; and

(4) US 4,452,442. This document is cited as a "Y" category document. Fig. 2 and reference numbers 30, 31 and 32 are indicated by the German Examiner as being relevant to claims 1-4, 8 and 9 of the German Application.

Applicant also submits herein copies of the following documents:

(5) US 5,322,271 is cited as a family member document of DE 41 39 978; and

(6) US 6,481,952 is cited as a family member document of DE 199 28 367.

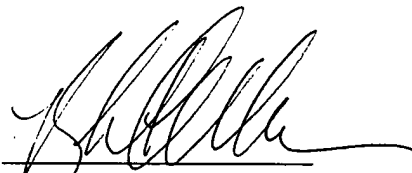
Copies of the above-listed documents including the German Search Report are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

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Applicant notes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a US application, i.e., it is being filed concurrently therewith. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1).

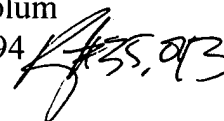
Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norbert RILITZ et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil F. Greenblum', written over a horizontal line.

Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

A handwritten number '28,394' in black ink, written next to the printed registration number.

February 12, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
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Reston, VA 20191  
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.